

DIFA Referee Protocol

The DIFA referee protocol refers to the set of procedures and rules that referees must follow before, during, and after football matches. Here is a general overview of this protocol:

Before the Match

Physical and Mental Preparation:

1. Ensure being in good physical and mental condition to officiate.
2. Participate in regular training sessions to maintain physical fitness.

Pre-Match Meeting:

1. Attend a meeting with assistants and other match officials to discuss strategies, responsibilities, and potential situations.
2. Clarify signals and verbal and non-verbal communications to be used during the match.

Field Inspection:

1. Arrive at the stadium at least 90 minutes before kick-off.
2. Inspect the pitch to ensure it is in good condition and meets DIFA regulations.
3. Check the game equipment, including goal nets, corner flags, and the ball.

Player Briefing:

1. Meet with team captains to remind them of the rules and conduct expectations.
2. Verify players' equipment to ensure it complies with regulations (boots, shin guards, etc.).

During the Match

Rule Enforcement:

1. Apply DIFA's Laws of the Game consistently and impartially.
2. Use clear and authoritative signals to communicate decisions (whistle, gestures).

Managing Players and Coaches:

1. Manage players' and coaches' behavior professionally and calmly.
2. Use warnings, yellow cards, and red cards according to the severity of offenses.

Timekeeping:

1. Ensure accurate timekeeping, including added time for stoppages.

Collaboration with Assistants:

2. Work closely with assistant referees to monitor fouls, offsides, and other incidents.

After the Match

Match Report:

3. Write a detailed match report, including significant incidents, warnings, dismissals, and any inappropriate behavior.
4. Submit the report to the appropriate DIFA or local federation authorities.

Debriefing Meeting:

1. Attend a debriefing meeting with other officials to discuss strengths and areas for improvement.
2. Analyze decisions made during the match and receive constructive feedback.

Recovery:

1. Follow a physical and mental recovery program after the match.
2. Ensure proper rest and treat any injuries.

Core Principles

- **Impartiality:** Maintain complete impartiality in all decisions.
- **Integrity:** Adhere to the highest ethical standards.
- **Respect:** Show respect to players, coaches, and spectators.
- **Professionalism:** Act professionally at all times.

Continuous Training

- DIFA referees are required to participate in continuous training programs to stay updated with the latest changes to the Laws of the Game and improve their skills.

This protocol ensures that referees maintain a high standard of performance and integrity, ensuring fairness and adherence to the rules of football.